

the citizens of our State to take advantage of private education and help with the awesome burden of financial assistance. In no way, and I want to make this clear, in no way is this designed to help the institution. The purpose and the motivation is to allow our students to take advantage of S.S.I.G. funds so they can do that on the same basis, the same qualifications as other students that attend other schools in the state. We've gone so far now that those federal funds are available by match from the institution. We believe it's fair and correct that No. 1 all students should have an equal educational opportunity as it relates to whether it's a private school or public school. This is a bill for students and not a bill for institutions. Mr. President, I know there are pending amendments. I have one and I'll reserve my comments to later in the debate.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Mills moves to indefinitely postpone LB 743.

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I really didn't want that right now. I was wanting to hear Senator Lewis' amendment but I may withdraw it but I'll speak to the bill anyway. I really oppose LB 743 and the concept which it is talking about and I hope that you'll pay attention to it and I hope that you'll remember what happened in 1976. The Constitutional amendment of 1976, part 2 of LB 666 and Amendment 6. I hope you'll look back and listen to the Supreme Court ruling in 1974 of January relating to almost the same identical question. I want you to understand that I really am in favor of helping students but I'm really concerned about this. I don't believe 743 is the way to do it. If you examine the piece of legislation you'll find there are a number of contradictions and problems which may make themselves obvious if we allow this to pass. To begin with and I hope that you members will look at it and especially since some of you have worked so close to the post secondary coordinating committee, you'll see that there could be a conflict of interest there. The coordinating commission would be in charge of distributions of the grant money. The Commission is made up of representatives from a number of institutions both public and private who could indirectly benefit from this legislation. They will be deciding which students will receive the grants and, therefore, institutions will receive the public money. There is a problem of discrimination in the amount of money. The bill sets the maximum award of tuition up to \$1,800. This means that while a full time student at the University of Nebraska may be receiving \$625 to pay his tuition fees, his counterpart in a private school could be receiving \$1,800. The student in a private school would receive three times as much financial aid as a student in a public institution. I want to point out to you those students who ought to go to proprietary schools such as beauty and barber schools will be eligible to receive financial assistance. I remind you that these types of schools are in a money making business and I bring this to your point of attention. We will be transferring State dollars to a private business sector and that's very very true. What's worse, the Coordinating Commission has no standards, no guidelines, they will only be awarding more